

25 September 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Security Staff, PIC

SUBJECT: TALENT Material

REFERENCE: TCS No. 3560/58, dtd 15 September 1958

1. You are absolutely correct in stating that "during a routine inspection on 9 September 1958 a large number of prints were in the possession of the Navy component that bore no security classification," therefore, the following steps have been taken:

a. The situation has been remedied by stamping TOP SECRET CHESS on each print and the Army and Navy components have signed a receipt for the prints in their possession.

b. Because of the urgency of the China situation at the time of receipt of the untitled film for Mission 6017, the Photo Lab was requested to make approximately 1800 prints as quickly as possible to be used by the HTA-ODE team to prepare a supplement to the ODE prepared in the field. It was determined that these prints should be made on the LogEtronic Continuous Strip Printer, and, since there is no mechanical means of placing classification or control number while the print is being made, it was intended that this would be stamped on after the prints were dried, but the ODE team was extremely anxious to begin its work, time would not permit us to do the stamping. It was decided to deliver the unstamped prints to the team who would prepare the ODE, and return all of the prints to file for destruction. The prints were returned, but because of the vast amount of information gleaned by the ODE team the Army and Navy components here in HTA were directed by their superiors in the Pentagon to re-scan the mission. With the approval of the Director, PIC, these unstamped prints were loaned to Army and Navy with the understanding that they would not be removed from HTA under any circumstances. Army and Navy signed for all the prints they removed from the files. The re-scan has not been completed as of today, however, when it is accomplished the prints will be returned to files for destruction.

~~TOP SECRET~~

TTC No. 3744/58

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2. We realize that the manner in which 6017 was handled did not conform to regulations, but there are several points which should be considered before jumping to conclusions:

a. The urgency of the China situation.

b. The secure handling of any classified material is the responsibility of all of the cleared personnel handling the material and all of the TOP SECRET CHESS stamps in the world will not guarantee secure handling.

c. Therefore, as long as we had a control of the material used, security was observed. Furthermore, we are in business to produce intelligence. In a tactical situation, I would not want to assume responsibility for a "Pearl Harbor" just to take time to stamp prints. Sometimes the system can swallow the product and render it useless.

3. Your point regarding the inferiority of the paper used is not well taken, in that the paper is really superior to other types because it is coated with a plastic to make it waterproof. Such waterproofing enhances the image quality and retains the dimensional stability of the photography. This is the same paper used by the contractor, and the only objection to it is that it will not accept regular stamp pad inks, or any we have investigated to date.

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Chief, Data Management Division,
Photographic Intelligence Center

PIC/DMD/HFS:pjb/3133

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